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## CHAPTER I

### BEFORE INDEPENDENCE

For centuries large groups of people in India have suffered many disabilities. Collectively these groups have been described variously as "outcastes," "exterior castes" and "depressed classes." Since these terms implied inferiority Gandhiji called them Harijans—God's own people. In the Government of India Act of 1935 they are described as "Scheduled Castes" and this term has also been used in the Constitution of independent India. A list of these groups is attached to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, issued by the Government of India under the Constitution.

According to the 1941 census, Harijans numbered 4.8 crores. They are distributed all over the country—in every State, district, tehsil and village—but nowhere are they as numerous as in Uttar Pradesh.

Until recently, Harijans stood on the lowest rung of the social ladder. Their disabilities were many. They were debarred from public utilities, such as roads, wells, tanks, conveyance and educational institutions. They were not admitted to temples and burning ghats. The following words of Gandhiji give a moving picture of their condition :

"Socially, they are lepers. Economically, they are worse than slaves. Religiously, they are denied entrance to places we miscall 'houses of God.' They are denied the use, on the same terms as the caste Hindus, of public roads, public schools, public hospitals, public wells, public taps, public parks and the like. In some cases their approach within a measured distance is a social crime, and in some other rare enough cases their

very sight is an offence. They are relegated for their residence to the worst quarters of cities and villages, where they practically get no social services. Caste Hindu lawyers, and doctors will not serve them. Brahmins will not officiate at their religious functions."

The origins of these disabilities go back to the dim past. Some sociologists\* believe that these are partly racial and partly occupational. In ancient society, they argue, certain occupations, such as that of a sweeper, were taboo. Naturally, those who did such work came to be looked down as unclean. The disabilities which thus originated in taboo were accentuated by racial antipathies and sanctified by religion.

This explanation is not acceptable to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar who has advanced the theory that "The distinction between the Hindus and untouchables in its original form before the advent of untouchability was the distinction between the Tribes Men and Broken Men from alien Tribes. It is the Broken Men who subsequently came to be treated as untouchables." He traces untouchability to the "contempt and hatred of the Broken Men" and to the "continuation of beef eating by the Broken Men after it had been given up by others."

Social differentiations are by no means rare in human society. "Distinction by birth has been usually recognized by many primitive people and almost all the major civilizations of ancient times. . . . Well marked status-groups within a society distinguished from one another by rights and disabilities, separated from one another by the absence of freedom of inter-marriage, may, therefore, be considered to be common characteristic and the mental background of the social picture of the Indo-European cultures." For instance, there was slavery in ancient Greece. In ancient Rome the populace was for a long time divided into three groups—patricians, plebeians and slaves. Then there was the master-serf relationship in feudal Europe. Finally, even in modern times there is the segregation of non-Whites in South Africa and the colour bar in America.

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\* Stanley Rice and J. H. Hutton.

† *Caste and Class in India* by G. S. Ghurye.



*Delhi—Gandhi addressing a gathering at the Bhangi colony where he usually stayed during his visits to the capital*

Social distinctions were swept away in Europe by economic changes, progress of science and the growth of nationalism. In India these forces did not come into play until about the middle of the nineteenth century. And when they did, they were largely negated by the "divide and rule" policy which the British rulers had been pursuing since 1857 to frustrate the nationalist movement and to keep and consolidate their hold on the country. Mr. Middleton, one of the two Superintendents who supervised the census operations of 1921, admits that "Our land records and official documents have added iron bonds to the old rigidity of caste. We pigeonholed everyone by caste and if we could not find a true caste for them we labelled them with the name of an hereditary occupation . . . . We deplore the caste system and its effects on social and economic problems but we are largely responsible for the system which we deplore."



#### HARIJANS AND GANDHIJI

The movement for the removal of caste barriers was initiated by Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Rishi Dayanand took up the cause of the Harijans. With Gandhiji's entry into the Indian National Congress in 1919 the uplift of the Harijans became a live issue. He regarded untouchability as the greatest blot on Hinduism. "Without the removal of the taint Swaraj was a meaningless term." The country, he was convinced, must put its own house in order if it were to claim justice from Britain.

Under his guidance the Congress adopted a constructive programme of social improvement in addition to a political programme. One of the important features of the former was to "organize the depressed classes for a better life, to improve their social, mental and moral condition, to induce them to send their children to national schools and to provide for them ordinary facilities which the other citizens enjoyed."

In pursuance of this programme, social workers undertook intensive propaganda throughout the country. "Rural India which had continued in its somnolescent medieval existence awoke to the puzzling spectacle of youth belonging to the highest caste, thundering to shocked audiences on the crime of treating fellow men and women as untouchables." They went to the hamlets of the untouchables defying their elders.

This drive, led by Gandhiji, gave the Harijans the self-respect and self-confidence to assert their rights. At Vykam, a small town in Travancore, they had been prevented from using a public street. On Gandhiji's advice the Harijans resorted to *satyagraha* to vindicate their right to use the street. Processions were organized and held up by the police. For sixteen months the *satyagrahis* and the police faced each other. Great interest was aroused throughout the country and thousands of volunteers poured in to help the Vykam Harijans. Eventually the authorities gave way and the cause of Harijan uplift triumphed.

"The opening of roads," wrote Gandhiji in this connec-



DELHI—Gandhi's room in the Bhangi colony



tion, "is not the final but the first step of the ladder of Harijan uplift. Temples, in general, public wells and schools must be thrown open to Harijans along with the caste Hindus." To secure these objectives Gandhiji undertook a tour of the country. An Englishman, who was in India at that time, has described the campaign in the following words:

"Year after year Gandhiji travelled up and down India holding immense meetings not only for political objectives but also, and for many years more frequently, to secure the abolition of untouchability. . . . Gandhiji did much more than hold meetings against untouchability. He took the amazingly courageous step (for a caste Hindu) of welcoming an untouchable child into his own family. This child's advent broke up the family for a time, not for long. It also meant that the Mahatma brought down on his own head the concentrated rage of orthodox Hinduism."

By removing their social disabilities Gandhiji hoped eventually completely to eradicate all distinctions between Harijans and other Hindus. But there were others who wanted to exploit the social evil for their own ends. These people were out to convert untouchability into a vested interest and demanded separate electorates for the community. Gandhiji was convinced that such a step would perpetuate the evil. "Separate electorates," he declared at the Second Round Table Conference, "will ensure their bondage for ever." He was resolved to fight it with his life.

In the Communal Award announced by the British Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, on August 17, 1932, this warning was disregarded. Gandhiji, therefore, sought to undo the mischief by his resolve to fast unto death if necessary. The fast spurred the people into action. By the fifth day of the fast the country's leaders, including Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, had worked out a plan which came to be known as the Poona Pact. It was agreed to by Gandhiji and accepted by the British. As a result of the Pact the Harijans remained an integral part of the general electorate, but seats were reserved for their representatives in all the provincial legislatures in proportion to their

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\* *Contemporary Review*, London, March 1949.



*Delhi—Harijans and others at a common meal*

population. They received 148 seats against 71 given by the British.

These events gave an impetus to the movement for Harijan uplift. Meetings were held all over the country to remove the evil root and branch. Between September 13 and October 2, 1932, more than 150 temples and numerous wells were thrown open to the Harijans. Feasts, in which Harijans and others participated, were held at Bombay, Delhi, Patna and Nagpur and at the Banaras University.

In September 1932, soon after his epic fast, Gandhiji founded the Harijan Sewak Sangh so that systematic and sustained efforts might be made to ameliorate the condition of the Harijans. The Sangh carries out its work through 25 State committees and 325 district committees. Trained members of the Sangh work in villages where they try to remove the disabilities of Harijans and bring their difficulties to the notice of the authorities. The Sangh subsidizes the construction of wells in Harijan colonies and

gives grants to dispensaries. To save the Harijans from exploitation it runs co-operative societies which are financed and managed by Harijans themselves. The Sangh has a programme of education also. Besides giving scholarships, it subsidizes and conducts primary schools and about 200 hostels all over the country. It runs 3 residential industrial institutions for boys at Delhi, Madras and Allahabad and 2 for girls at Sabarmati and Delhi. The magnitude of its activities can be gauged from the fact that its budget for the year ending March 1951 amounted to Rs. 12.95 lakh. In 1951-52, it expects to spend about Rs. 15 lakh. Out of this sum Rs. 5 lakh will be forthcoming from the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi and Rs. 5 lakh from the State Governments. The balance of Rs. 5 lakh will be met from public donations.

In November 1933, Gandhiji once again set out on a campaign of Harijan uplift. In ten months he covered the greater part of the country. He studied every aspect of the question, addressed crowded meetings and spread his message through his weekly organ, *Harijan*. He collected money for Harijan uplift, enlisted workers and organized feasts at which Harijans and caste Hindus ate together.

While Gandhiji tried to bring about a change in the attitude of caste Hindus towards Harijans, he also attempted to reform the latter. For instance, he told the Harijans not to eat carrion meat. He taught them to skin the dead animal more efficiently, to convert refuse into valuable compost and to keep their houses clean. In fact, there was hardly an aspect of Harijan uplift which escaped his attention.

H. N. Brailsford, the well-known British writer, has described his work in the following words: "The campaign of this mystic to clean latrines one day and open temples on the other is one of the strangest chapters in history and one of the noblest. Has any saint in human memory done more to lighten the misery of the oppressed and restore their self-respect. He had broken a cruel institution that dated from the night of time. . . . India honours Gandhiji today chiefly because he led the fight for independence.

Humanity owes him even heavier debt because he opened the road of the untouchables to freedom."

#### HARIJANS AND POPULAR MINISTRIES

In 1937, popular Ministries came into power in the provinces and they took up the work of Harijan uplift with great enthusiasm and gave it precedence over other problems. The planning and implementation of the Harijan uplift programme was entrusted to special officers or departments. The main aim of these efforts was to raise the Harijans educationally and to give them adequate representation in public services. Attention was given to other aspects of Harijan welfare also.

#### *Education*

Education is the most effective instrument of uplift. Accordingly, the emphasis was on increased facilities for education. Harijans had their share in the general expenditure on education. Now, additional funds were ear-marked exclusively for their benefit. In the year ending March 1940, the United Provinces spent Rs. 389,491 on the education of Harijans. In Bombay the expenditure shot up from Rs. 56,000 in 1937-38 to Rs. 1,61,000 in 1939-40. The progress of expenditure in Madras can be gauged from the following figures :

1937-38	1938-39	1939-40
Rs. 717,872	Rs. 778,764	Rs. 849,022

In most of the provinces new schools were opened for Harijan children and the old ones given grants-in-aid. In Madras and Bombay institutions which discriminated against Harijan pupils or refused them admission were deprived of State aid.

Poor Harijan students in Bombay schools were exempted from the payment of fees. In arts and professional colleges free studentships and scholarships were awarded. Three scholarships were awarded to deserving students for advanced studies in England. In the U.P. scholarships were awarded to 8,000 Harijan students and





*BOMBAY—Self-service for boys at a backward class hostel at Poona*

40,000 more were provided with text books and stationery. Those in Government schools were exempted from the payment of fees. Similar concessions were made to Harijan students in Madras and Bihar. For example, the following scholarships were awarded in Madras :

- (i) 62 residential and 3,159 non-residential scholarships in secondary and elementary schools,
- (ii) 22 scholarships in arts colleges, and
- (iii) 180 scholarships to students undergoing professional and industrial training.

These were in addition to the 145 scholarships awarded to Harijan students by the Department of Education.

The Madras Government maintained five hostels for Harijan students in Madras city and 3 in other towns. In addition 22 hostels were subsidized by the State. In Bombay Harijan students were provided with rent free accommodation in hostels attached to Government secondary schools. Private hostels which admitted Harijan boys and girls received grants from the Government. A hostel for Harijan students was maintained by the Government at Poona.

Further, an offer from the Gujarat Harijan Sewak Sangh to run a hostel at Ahmedabad was accepted and an annual grant of Rs. 6,600 was sanctioned for the purpose.

Besides providing special facilities for education some provinces took care to persuade Harijans to send their children to schools. For instance, 77 supervisors were appointed in the U.P. to work among Harijans and to make them conscious of the benefits of education. In every district a committee consisting of officials and non-officials was set up to supervise their educational progress. To deal with important matters there was a provincial committee at the top.

The number of Harijan students in educational institutions increased substantially as a result of all these measures. In the U.P. the number rose from 182,181 in 1938-39 to 194,092 in 1939-40 and in Bihar from 56,667 in 1937-38 to 65,903 in 1938-39.

### *Public Services*

In order to give them an adequate representation in public services rules regarding recruitment to services were relaxed in their favour. In Madras the minimum qualifications prescribed for appointment to subordinate posts were lowered for Harijan candidates and the age limit was raised to 27 years as against 25 for others. Harijan candidates who had a university degree or an intermediate certificate were exempted from all age restrictions.

Moreover, one out of every 12 posts in the provincial and subordinate services was reserved for Harijan candidates. In 1939, Madras had 9 superior gazetted officers belonging to Harijan communities and 29 non-gazetted officers drawing a monthly salary of more than Rs. 100. In addition, there were numerous Harijans who occupied posts on lower salaries.

Similar concessions were granted in Uttar Pradesh also. For example, the Government decided to appoint at least one Harijan as deputy collector every year. Before the popular regime came into power Harijans were debarred



from police service. The bar was removed by the popular Ministry. Harijans were appointed as sub-registrars, excise inspectors and divisional superintendents also.

#### *Abolition of Forced Labour*

Before the advent of popular Ministries, forced labour was a common feature of life in the rural areas. The victims of this practice were poor landless labourers, mostly Harijans. In the Congress ruled provinces forced labour was abolished. Further, the district officers in the U.P. were instructed to stop the zamindars from exacting *begar*. Offenders were to be prosecuted under section 347 of the Indian Penal Code.

In Bihar Section 8 of the Penal Troop Transport and Travellers Assistance Regulation of 1806, which empowered the police to impress labour and transport for the use of civilian officers touring in rural areas, was repealed.

#### *Removal of Disabilities*

In areas, where water is scarce, the disability of Harijans in regard to the use of wells was a source of great hardship. The district officers in the U.P. were, therefore, asked to ensure that Harijans were not debarred from the use of public wells and other public amenities. An extract from these instructions is given below :

"Public wells are as much free and open to these castes as to the high caste Hindus and other sections of the community. Government cannot possibly recognize any distinction on any ground whatsoever in the case of the users of public wells and will do their utmost to enforce such right. All people are entitled to a free and unfettered use of all public property, such as public highways, public wells, public parks and public buildings. While Government will not fail to do their duty in regard to this matter, it is obvious that public and social opinion must exercise the greatest influence in the solution of any difficulties which may arise in any part of the province. Government appeal most strongly to all sections of the public to ensure full support to the members of the scheduled castes in the peaceful enjoyment of their fundamental rights in this respect."

Legislation was enacted to raise their social status. In Madras, for instance, the Removal of Civil Disabilities Act of 1938 enabled the Harijans to enjoy all social and public

amenities open to caste Hindus. Under this Act law courts were directed not to recognize any disability even if imposed by custom. The Malabar Temple Entry Act of 1938 facilitated the throwing open of famous temples in Malabar to the Harijans. For the rest of the province a more effective measure, the Temple Entry Authorization and Indemnity Act of 1938, was put on the statute book. It authorized the trustees of any temple to throw it open to the Harijans and indemnified the trustees from civil or criminal liability. "This law," as Rajaji has pointed out, "was a revolutionary step that required no mean amount of courage and determination. It could have resulted in the immediate break up of the Government but the strength of the Congress was enough to bear down all opposition. The great temples of Madura, Tanjore and Palani in the most orthodox southern districts were thrown open under the new law. The Congress withdrew from the Government in 1939 and the throwing open of other big temples was stopped."

#### *Amenities*

Among the pressing needs of Harijans were housing and water supply. Suitable sites were given to them at nominal prices by the Backward Class Department of Bombay. Further, land was given to co-operative housing societies of Harijans at reduced rates. At Allahabad 20 acres of land were granted to the Harijan Sewak Sangh at a nominal rent. A sum of Rs. 30,000 was sanctioned by the U.P. Government for the provision of water for the Harijans as part of a programme of rural development. In Bihar Rs. 125,000 were sanctioned for water supply in rural areas, and of this amount Rs. 50,000 were ear-marked for Harijans.

The economic uplift of Harijans is part of the larger problem of raising the standard of living of the masses. Steps taken by the popular Ministries to protect agricultural tenants, to settle debts, to extend the co-operative credit movement and to improve the condition of industrial labour helped the Harijans substantially since they formed a



BOMBAY—The Minister for Fisheries, Backward Classes and Rehabilitation and a group of Harijans visiting Ranchhodji temple at Dwarka

considerable part of the country's industrial and landless agricultural labour.

These ameliorative measures to improve their economic condition could be effective only if the Harijans were made to give up the excessive use of liquor. Some of the provinces, therefore, initiated the policy of prohibition.

As a result of these measures there was a perceptible improvement in the condition of the Harijans. Increased facilities for education and vocational training opened to them the doors of opportunity in the economic field. The educated among them were absorbed in public services. A

middle class had thus begun to rise among the Harijans and it has become the vanguard of progress.

Unfortunately for the Harijans the political situation compelled the popular Ministries to resign office in 1939. With their departure the welfare work which they had been doing with such great zeal was interrupted. Even so the death knell of untouchability had been sounded and the foundations of future progress of the Harijans had been well laid.

## CHAPTER II

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

THE work for the uplift of Harijans, which had been interrupted in 1939, was resumed with the advent of independence.

This time it was a simultaneous effort in several directions rapidly to raise the Harijans to the level of the more advanced sections in society. During the past four years or so legislation has been passed and administrative action taken to remove their social and civic handicaps and to raise them educationally and economically.

In the programmes which are being worked out in the States and at the Centre special attention is devoted to the education of the Harijans. This emphasis is justified, for nothing will bring about an improvement in their condition more speedily than education.

#### *Centre*

The Central Government's expenditure on Harijan education has been increasing steadily. For instance, a sum of Rs. 3 lakh was spent in 1946-47 on scholarships for Harijan students studying beyond the matriculation stage. The popular Government which came into power in 1947 considered the grant inadequate and sanctioned a larger amount. For 1950-51, the sum allotted was Rs. 825,000, which is more than 2½ times the amount spent before India became free.

The growing expenditure on Harijan education is



reflected in scholarships whose number has been rising steadily as is evident from the following :

Year	Number of scholarships awarded to Harijan students		
1945-46	..	..	292
1946-47	..	..	527
1947-48	..	..	655
1948-49	..	..	647
1949-50	..	..	879
1950-51	..	..	1,316

### Madras

In Madras, where the Harijan problem was once the most acute, the progress of education has been remarkable indeed. In 1951, the State spent Rs. 54 lakh on their education as against Rs. 31 lakh in 1946. In other words, this expenditure increased by Rs. 23 lakh within the past four years.

With the enactment of the Removal of Civil Disabilities Act of 1947, Harijans are now admitted to all educational institutions. In fact, the popular Ministry has ensured that ten per cent of the total number of places are reserved for Harijan students in every educational institution.

In addition, the Government has special schools for Harijan children in certain localities. Their number has been growing from year to year and in 1951 there were 1,353 of these schools with nearly one lakh Harijan pupils. Besides free education, midday meals are supplied in these schools. In 1951, the cost of meals amounted to Rs. 15 lakh.

Education is free for Harijan pupils in elementary schools. In secondary schools, arts and professional colleges poor Harijan students are exempted from the payment of fees. They are also not required to pay examination fees or are allowed reduction in fees to the extent of fifty per cent. These facilities are supplemented by grants to enable poor children to buy books and stationery and defray expenses for board and lodging.

The range and variety of scholarships awarded to Harijan students are indeed bewildering! They cover every





type of education—elementary, secondary, college, post-graduate, professional, industrial and vocational. A sum of Rs. 7 lakh was spent by Madras on scholarships in 1951.

Hostels are provided for those who live away from the educational centres. Twenty-two of these are run by the Harijan Welfare Department of the State, and provide free board and lodging. There are, moreover, 435 private hostels which receive a monthly subsidy of Rs. 15 for every Harijan pupil for ten months in the year.

That big strides have been taken by Madras on the road of Harijan education is evident from the following comparative figures :

1946		1951
Rs. 3,132,504	Amount spent on Harijan education	Rs. 5,400,000
Rs. 181,722	Expenditure on scholarships	Rs. 712,136
Rs. 249,285	Boarding grants	Rs. 1,683,992
72	Private hostels subsidized by the Government	435
		22 Government Hostels
1,786	Boarders in private hostels for whom boarding grants have been sanctioned	10,704
5,821	Number of scholarships	17,732
1,148	Special schools for Harijans	1,353
2,207	Teachers	2,972
27,136	Girls in schools	32,960
50,538	Boys in schools	63,530
77,674	Total strength	96,490
71,541	Number of pupils fed	83,830
Rs. 1,049,000	Cost of midday meals	Rs. 1,563,000

The story of the efforts made and results achieved in Madras is the same as in the other States. In outlining the efforts of the latter attention will, therefore, be confined only to special features of the educational programmes.



MADRAS—An honorary  
social worker with  
children at a Harijan  
girls' hostel



MADRAS—Cookery class  
at a Harijan girls'  
school



MADRAS—Girls of a  
Harijan hostel learn-  
ing to spin

## Bombay

Primary education in Bombay is now free and compulsory in all villages with a population of one thousand or more. Whenever compulsory education is introduced in an area, backward class children, including Harijans, are provided with books and stationery. Secondary education is also free for all boys and girls within specified age limits. To attract backward classes to higher education, inducements are given by way of reduction of fees and scholarships. The value of scholarships varies according to the requirements of each course. These concessions are supplemented by a vast network of State hostels in some areas and subsidized hostels run by private agencies elsewhere.

The progress of education among the backward classes is evident from the figures below :

	Number of Harijan students		
	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49
Colleges (excluding medical, agricultural and engineering colleges, etc.) .. ..	491	537	689
Secondary schools .. ..	8,652	10,354	11,418
Primary schools .. ..	234,713	348,996	501,842

## Bihar

In 1948-49 and again in 1949-50, Harijan students were given stipends to the value of Rs. 105,216. As it was felt that the scope of stipends should be widened, the Bihar Government allotted Rs. 650,000 for the purpose in 1950-51 on the recommendations of the Bihar Harijan Enquiry Committee. This is more than six times the amount spent in the two preceding years.

There is an increase in the number of hostels also. In 1948-49, there were Harijan hostels at Bhagalpur, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Monghyr, Purnea and Raghunathpur. New hostels were opened at Arrah, Sasaram, Gaya and Aurangabad in 1949-50. The construction of several other hostels is to be undertaken soon.





PUNJAB—Harijan boys  
learning the three R's



BHAR—Boys doing  
carpentry at the Theo-  
sophical Harijan In-  
dustrial School, Patna



BHAR—Harijan boys  
training in leather  
work

### *Orissa*

Like other States, Orissa too has made striking progress in the education of Harijans. For instance, the expenditure on scholarships and grants has risen one hundred and forty times since independence, while the number of Harijan and other backward class scholars has increased three times as can be seen from the following :

	Stipends and grants for Harijans (in rupees)	Number of students in educational institutions
1946-47	5,000	42,458
1947-48	188,000	47,268
1948-49	426,362	76,448
1949-50	713,813	114,914

### *Uttar Pradesh*

Poor and deserving Harijan students are exempted from the payment of fees in Government and State-aided educational institutions. The value of stipends for them ranges from Rs. 8 to Rs. 125 per month. In 1950, a sum of Rs. 800,000 was spent on stipends. There are thirty-four subsidized hostels in the State for Harijan students.

Harijan youths are encouraged to train for such trades as carpentry, smithy, spinning and weaving. They also train as electricians, radio and motor mechanics. In 1949 and 1950, 100 and 350 young men respectively were given technical and vocational training under the Director of Resettlement and Employment in Uttar Pradesh. Many more received vocational training in industrial institutions under the Director of Cottage Industries. Places are reserved for Harijan students at the medical colleges in Lucknow and Agra.

### *Punjab*

Soon after partition the Punjab Government formulated a scheme for the educational advancement of Harijans. Under the scheme Harijan students are exempted from the payment of tuition fees in all educational institutions. They are also eligible for monthly stipends of Rs. 6, 15, 20 and 25



respectively for high school, intermediate, degree and post-graduate education. The annual expenditure on stipends and tuition is as below :

Year	Stipends (in rupees)	Tuition (in rupees)
1948-49	26,425	30,500
1949-50	92,266	47,000
1950-51	151,641	100,000
1951-52	171,578	100,000

The number of Harijan pupils has been increasing steadily in recent years. For instance, there were 75,745 scholars in 1950-51 compared with 51,780 in 1948-49. There were 588 boys and 4 girls receiving university education in 1948-49, whereas the corresponding figure for the Punjab before partition was 62 and 1 only.

### *Madhya Pradesh*

In addition to the usual concessions, such as exemption from the payment of tuition and examination fees, stipends and boarding grants, 15 per cent of the places in all Government and State-aided institutions are reserved for backward classes, including Harijans. The progress of education among these classes can be gauged from the following :

	Number of backward class students			
	Boys 1946-47	Girls 1946-47	Boys 1948-49	Girls 1948-49
Primary schools	50,235	5,594	72,421	8,437
Secondary schools	5,463	525	9,065	943
Arts and science colleges	152	7	192	9
Technical institutions	40	Nil	52	1

### *West Bengal*

Both West Bengal and Assam have lost territory and population in consequence of partition. In their case, therefore, the present state of Harijan education cannot be compared with that obtaining before.

In 1950, the position of backward class education in West Bengal was as follows :

	Boys	Girls	Total
Number of backward class scholars in technical vocational and professional institutions ..	318,410	49,151	365,561
Expenditure on stipends and other concessions	Rs. 492,378	Rs. 28,732	Rs. 521,110

#### *Assam*

One out of every five Harijan pupils in Government schools is given a scholarship, that is, free education. Nine free and eleven half-fee studentships are available to these classes in the colleges. Two students have been given overseas scholarships and another a scholarship for the study of medicine outside the State.

#### *Hyderabad*

A Scheduled Caste Trust Fund was instituted in 1948 with a capital of one crore rupees. The object of the Fund is educational, social and economic advancement of Harijans in the State.

Like Madras, Hyderabad has special schools for the Harijans and these number 213. Besides free education, these institutions provide books and stationery. Poor students are supplied with clothes also. The schools cost Rs. 487,352 in 1951. In addition to the 12,613 children in these institutions there were 27,896 Harijan students in other schools, that is, 40,509 in all.

Scholarships are awarded to Harijan students in schools and colleges from the Trust Fund. To encourage technical and professional education there are scholarships of Rs. 75 each and an equipment allowance of Rs. 250. In all 11,000 scholarships were awarded in 1950-51.

Hostels have been established for Harijan students at all district headquarters except two. Students who live in recognized hostels are given stipends. Recently, a building was purchased in Hyderabad at a cost of Rs. 40,000 and allotted to the Harijan Sewak Sangh for use as hostel.



*DELHI—An open air school for Harijans.*

*HYDERABAD—Boys in the reading room of a Harijan school.*



## Rajasthan

The following figures show the progress in Rajasthan :

Year	Number of Harijans receiving scholarships	Expenditure on scholarships (in rupees)
1948-49	62	3,192
1949-50	312	11,330
1950-51	1,228	42,117

## Madhya Bharat

In two years since 1948-49, the expenditure on scholarships for Harijan students has increased fourfold, while the number of students has risen  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times :

Year	Harijan pupils in schools	Harijan students in colleges	Harijan students in technical institutions	Expenditure on scholarships for Harijan scholars (in rupees)
1948-49	971	30	—	17,640
1949-50	1,790	30	2	56,190
1950-51	2,392	35	9	68,618

## Mysore

The steps taken to promote the education of Harijans in Mysore include exemption from the payment of fees, free supply of books and clothes to poor students and award of scholarships. There are eleven Government and 56 State-aided hostels for Harijans.

Mysore has an Advisory Committee which keeps an eye on the educational progress of the Harijans. It studies their educational problems, suggests measures for their solution and tries to make the most of the facilities offered by the Government.

Here are some figures which show the progress of Harijan education in the State :

	1948-49	1950-51
Number of pupils	47,778	80,460*
Books and slates	Rs. 6,668	Rs. 3,334
Clothes	" 3,000	" 3,000
Scholarships	" 44,541	" 72,500
Harijan hostels	" 70,278	" 94,708
State-aided hostels for Harijans	" 69,797	" 167,397

\* The figure is for 1949-50.



DELHI—Social workers  
join in a game



DELHI—Physical train-  
ing for Harijan children



BHAR—In the play-  
ground of the Mach-  
huatoli Harijan colony



### *Travancore-Cochin*

During the past five years Travancore-Cochin has been spending more than a lakh of rupees annually to promote education among backward communities. A hostel is run by the State Government for Harijan pupils.

### *Saurashtra*

In 1950-51, Saurashtra had 481 Harijan students in the schools, colleges and technical institutions. All of them received Government scholarships. The following figures show the expenditure incurred by the Government on the education of Harijans in 1949-50 and 1950-51 :

	Expenditure in 1949-50 (in rupees)	Expenditure in 1950-51 (in rupees)
Tuition and examination fees .. ..	..	5,000
Clothes for Harijan students .. ..	..	5,000
Grants-in-aid to hostels .. ..	40,000	50,000
Grants-in-aid for construction of buildings .. ..	..	40,000

### *PEPSU*

PEPSU had 11,000 backward class students in the educational institutions in 1950-51. Their tuition fees and expenses for board and lodging were met by the Government. They also received monthly stipends between Rs. 2 to 25. In 1951-52, the Government expects to spend Rs. 450,000 on scholarships alone.

### *Jammu and Kashmir*

Harijan students are given free studentships and books. Their number has increased from year to year and in 1951-52 the State had 1,844 Harijans in the educational institutions.

### *Delhi*

The smaller States are marching in step with the bigger ones. For example, Delhi had 6,537 Harijan



scholars in its educational institutions in March 1949 compared with 3,243 before independence. The number of scholarships awarded was 2,298 in 1950-51 as compared with 30 before August 15, 1947.

#### *Ajmer*

Harijan pupils in the educational institutions increased from 2,771 in 1947 to 3,664 in 1949. Out of a total of 116 scholarships only five were awarded to Harijan students in 1947, whereas the figures for 1950-51 were 442 out of a total of 1,159.

#### *Kutch*

The State has 800 Harijan pupils in the schools and technical institutions and awards 64 scholarships annually. Before independence Harijan students were not admitted to any educational institution.

#### *Coorg*

The State has 1,859 Harijan students and the expenditure on their education has been increasing steadily since independence. A sum of Rs. 1 lakh has been ear-marked by the State for their education in 1951-52. It will be used to provide the Harijan students with scholarships, books, midday meals, clothes and food rations.

From the factual data available, it is evident that educationally the Harijans have been making speedy progress. In some of the States this progress has indeed been spectacular. Harijan students are now admitted to the educational institutions everywhere and some of the States have even places reserved for them. Many States, such as Madras and Hyderabad, have special schools where besides free education, books, stationery and midday meals are given to Harijan students. To encourage higher education among them, scholarships and grants are given. The number of scholarships awarded to the Harijans is far in excess of their proportion in the population. Some States maintain hostels where free accommodation and food are

provided. The expenditure on the education of Harijans has been mounting steadily in the States and at the Centre from year to year.

The cumulative effect of these measures is altogether beneficial. The Harijans are now becoming better equipped for the race of life. Education is widening their mental horizon and creating in them an urge for betterment.

## CHAPTER III

### AMELIORATIVE MEASURES

Every effort is being made to raise the social and economic status of the Harijans. Legislation has been enacted to remove their social disabilities, and administrative action is being taken to improve their economic condition and standard of living. The aim of these measures is to eliminate distinctions between Harijans and other members of the community and their eventual fusion as desired by Gandhiji.

Welfare work in most States is planned and executed by special departments. For instance, there is the Department of Harijan Welfare in Madras whose field work is supervised by Deputy Collectors in the bigger districts and Tehsildars in others. Uttar Pradesh has a Harijan Sahayak Department which came into existence in 1948. To enforce the U.P. Removal of Social Disabilities Act of 1947 and to help the Harijans, the State has twenty-two Harijan Welfare Officers in the districts. To advise the Government on welfare measures there are District Harijan Associations and the Provincial Board. Bihar has four Divisional and eighteen Harijan Welfare Officers. Uplift work in Bombay is looked after by the Director of Backward Classes Welfare, five Assistant Directors and seventeen Welfare Officers. The Punjab State has twelve Harijan Welfare Officers and Welfare Committees in the districts and tehsils.

Madhya Bharat has a Department of Harijan and Adivasi Uplift with Backward Class Officers and Develop-

ment Officers in the districts. There are 24 *pracharaks* to campaign against untouchability throughout the State. At the apex of the welfare organization is the Central Harijan Uplift Advisory Committee.

Adequate organizations for welfare work exist in other States also, and official effort is supplemented by the work of voluntary bodies.

#### SOCIAL PROGRESS

Soon after independence, popular Ministries undertook the task of removing the disabilities from which the Harijans still suffered. For instance, in 1947, Bombay enacted the Temple Entry Act which opened temples and places of worship to the Harijans. They were allowed access to public places and enabled to take up any profession they liked by the Removal of Social Disabilities Act of 1946. Offences under both these acts are cognizable and the following prosecutions were started between 1947-48 and 1949-50:

Year	Cases under the Removal of Social Disabilities Act 1946			Cases under the Bombay Temple Entry Act 1947		
	No. of cases sent to court for prosecution	No. of cases decided	No. of cases resulting in conviction	No. of cases sent to court for prosecution	No. of cases decided	No. of cases resulting in conviction
1947-48	262	91	43	3	1	1
1948-49	161	87	54	31	6	-
1949-50	85	33	14	6	1	1

Madras enacted the Removal of Civil Disabilities (Amendment) Act in 1947 which conferred on Harijans the right of access to all public places, such as educational institutions, hospitals, theatres, hotels, hostels, shaving saloons, shops, public wells, bathing places, burial and cremation grounds, roads, streets and pathways. It enabled the Harijans to hold any office and to carry on any business, trade or occupation.

Other States, too, followed the pattern of legislation in Bombay and Madras. There is, for example, the Central Provinces and Berar Temple Entry Authorization Act of 1947, the First Orissa Temple Entry Authorization Act of 1948, the U.P. Removal of Social Disabilities Act of 1947, the Punjab Removal of Religious and Social Disabilities Act of 1948, the Bihar Removal of Civil Disabilities Act of 1949, and the Madhya Bharat Harijan *Ayogyaata Nirvan Vidhan* of *Samvat* 2005.

As a result of these measures, the Harijans are now equal, and in no way inferior, to the other citizens of the Republic. Official and non-official agencies see to it that they are fully cognizant of their rights and derive the fullest benefit from these acts.

#### ECONOMIC UPLIFT

Low earnings are a handicap which the Harijans share with the bulk of their countrymen. The efforts which are now being made to develop the country will benefit them equally with the others. Specific measures are also being adopted to raise the Harijans economically. They include the organization of co-operative societies, assignment of land for cultivation, encouragement of cottage industries, training of Harijans in different crafts and prohibition.

#### *Co-operative Societies*

A large proportion of the Harijan population is employed in cottage industries. For want of funds and organization their progress is impeded and co-operative societies are being organized to overcome the deficiency. These provide their members with credit facilities and raw materials and enable them to sell their finished goods at a profit. The State Governments help these societies in many ways.

In Madras the societies formed by Harijan fishermen are given lease of inland fisheries at reduced rates without auction. Special allotments of iron and steel are also made to co-operative societies engaged in the manufacture of agricultural implements.



Co-operative societies for the development of cottage industries, such as tanning and leather work, pottery making, basket making, mat weaving and coir rope making, have also been organized for the benefit of Harijans. They receive subsidies from the Government for the purchase of equipment. Initial costs are also borne by the Government and the services of its staff are placed at the disposal of the societies.

The progress of co-operative movement among the Harijans of Madras can be gauged from the following :

	June 1948		June 1950
	2,328	Number of Harijan societies	2,679
	114,000	Membership	188,750
Rs.	700,000	Paid up capital	Rs. 1,100,000
"	132,000	Deposits from members	" 256,000
"	234,000	Loans from the Government	" 270,000
"	2,335,000	Working capital	" 3,408,000

In Bihar the Harijan Sewak Sangh has taken the lead in establishing co-operative societies. Seventeen societies of municipal sweepers have been established and they have helped a large number of members to clear their debts. In 1950-51, Rs. 10,000 were sanctioned by the Bihar Government to help these societies. Another sum of Rs. 8,355 was given to two co-operative societies of shoe-makers and two weaving centres. The co-operative movement is spreading in Bombay also.

Delhi has 31 co-operative societies with 1,517 Harijan members and a working capital of Rs. 89,463. By July 31, 1950, they had loaned Rs. 147,200 to their members and thus saved them from the clutches of the money-lender. Besides credit, the societies supply raw materials, rations and other essential requirements of their members. Sixty-two co-operative societies consisting of Harijans and others are also engaged in similar work. Coorg has three co-operative societies of Harijans and they are doing useful work.

#### *Land for Cultivation*

In all the States, land is assigned to the Harijans for



MADRAS—A gathering of Harijans with pattas for land given for cultivation

cultivation. For instance, a fair proportion of the waste land in every ryotwari village in Madras is reserved for them. Under the rules land suitable for wet cultivation cannot be assigned free of charge. But to help the Harijans, the Government has ordered that such land should be sold to them privately at a fair market price fixed by the Collector, and the value so fixed collected in easy instalments. Until 1950, 381,903 acres of land were assigned to the Harijans and 197,456 acres brought under cultivation.

Special Harijan colonies have been formed in several districts in Madras, and land has been assigned to the colonists for cultivation. Facilities are also given to them for the purchase of agricultural implements.

In allotting waste land for cultivation, the Bombay Government always gives preference to members of the backward classes, including Harijans. These allotments include land leased under the "Grow More Food Campaign" and forest land. Local Harijan agriculturists and other

backward classes have first claim on unused land in partially excluded areas and elsewhere. They are now becoming aware of the concessions to which they are entitled, and a large number of applications for agricultural land were received by the Backward Class Welfare Officer in 1949-50. So far 293,866 acres have been allotted to backward classes. Among the other facilities given to them are interest-free *faccavi* loan for the purchase of implements and cattle and subsidies for the construction of wells.

#### *Training in Crafts and Industries*

With a view to raising their earning capacity the State Governments arrange for the training of Harijans in various crafts, industries and hereditary occupations.

In 1949-50, the Government of Bihar appointed a committee with Mr. A. V. Thakkar as Chairman to report on the condition of Harijans in the State and to prepare a five-year plan for their uplift. On the interim recommendations of the committee the Bihar State Aid to Industries Act was brought into force and loans up to Rs. 500 were granted to Harijans for the development of cottage industries. In 1950-51, a sum of Rs. 10 lakh was ear-marked for the implementation of the various schemes of economic uplift.

The Bombay Government has set up 17 peripatetic demonstration centres and schools to train the backward classes in various industries, namely, cotton and wool weaving, tanning and leather work, cane and bamboo work and carpentry and fibre work. A large number of scholarships are awarded to backward class students undergoing training in technical and industrial institutions and in accountancy, architecture, commercial art, dentistry, forestry, shorthand and typewriting. Scholarships are also awarded to a number of women students who receive training in nursing, health visitor's course, midwifery and *dar's* course.

In Uttar Pradesh, the Government is encouraging Harijan youth to train as electricians, radio and motor mechanics as well as to learn carpentry, smithy, spinning,

weaving and other trades. A sum of Rs. 342,000 was earmarked for the training of Harijans in 1951-52.

The Government of Madras has sanctioned a scheme for the free supply of tools to enterprising Harijan artisans in the areas selected for intensive rural reconstruction. In PEPSU work centres have been opened with the object of providing instruction in tailoring, carpentry and nursing. Also, about 160 Harijan students, including 51 girls, are admitted to Government training-cum-work centres for hosiery, smithy, carpentry, weaving, dyeing, calico printing and soap making. Centres have been started at Bidar in Hyderabad and in Madhya Bharat to provide training in tanning and leather work. Training facilities are available in other States also.

#### *Prohibition*

Measures for the economic uplift of Harijans cannot be very effective until they are rescued from the evil of drink which has led to their progressive impoverishment. As a committee appointed by the Bombay Government pointed out, "Alcoholic liquor and other intoxicating drugs and drinks are verily the public enemy No. 1 of the backward classes. Indulgence in intoxicating drugs and drinks diverts their meagre resources from the essential requirements of themselves and their families. It saps their vitality, plays havoc with their physique as well as their minds and is an effective obstacle to their amelioration."

Prohibition must, therefore, find a place in any programme of Harijan uplift. It was, in fact, one of the main features of the constructive programme drawn up by Gandhiji for national regeneration. It was tried for a brief period between 1937 and 1939 when the popular Ministries were in power. Complete prohibition has now been introduced in Bombay and Madras and partial prohibition in other States. The State Governments are losing in revenue, but prohibition has been a great boon to the Harijans. There is evidence to show that it has contributed



*Bntar—Thakkar Bapa and H. E. Shri M. S. Aney in a Harijan village*



appreciably to their economic improvement and domestic well-being.

#### HOUSING

Housing is one of the pressing needs of the Harijans. Accordingly, the State Governments are devoting their attention to the improvement of housing for them. This is being done through co-operative housing societies which receive land and interest-free loan. Wherever such societies are difficult to organize, similar concessions are given to Harijans individually.

A scheme to provide house sites to Harijans has been drawn up by the Madras Government. Suitable land at the disposal of the Government is thus transferred to a "village site" and distributed among those who need them. Since there is not enough of this type of land the Government has to acquire large tracts of private land under the Land Acquisition Act. Up to 1950, 49,208 house sites had been allotted to Harijans out of the Government land. In addition, the Government acquired land for 46,001 house sites at a cost of Rs. 2,423,746. Since 1949, house sites are given free of cost to all Harijans who do not own a site and cannot afford to pay for it.

Similar concessions are allowed to Harijans in Bombay also. Those in need of houses are encouraged to form housing societies. Free sites are granted to these societies which agree to lease plots to their members at a nominal yearly rent of four annas.

As the object of the Government's housing scheme is to provide houses of improved design, they are built according to an approved plan. Each house, it is estimated, will cost not more than Rs. 1,500 in undeveloped areas and Rs. 2,000 in others. A loan up to 75 per cent of the actual cost is granted for house building. The loan is free of interest and is repayable in twenty annual instalments. The housing societies are given preference by the Government in the supply of building materials.

With a view to ending the segregation of Harijans, the



*Delhi—Modern airy flats, built by the Government for Harijans, are gradually replacing insanitary mud huts*



Bombay Government has ordered that they should be allotted house sites close to the villages at reasonable prices. At the same time, new sites are being acquired for Harijans residing in low-lying, marshy or out of the way places.

Local bodies in Bombay are being encouraged to undertake slum clearance and build suitable houses for their Harijan employees. Liberal subsidies, ranging from a third to a half of the total cost, are offered to them for this purpose. This concession is given to any association or individual engaged in the construction of houses for the Harijan employees of the local bodies.

In 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51, the Mysore Government allotted Rs. 18 lakh, Rs. 19 lakh and Rs. 19 lakh respectively for welfare work among the Harijans. These funds were utilized largely to acquire land and construct houses. The subsidy given to a Harijan family varies between Rs. 300 to Rs. 400. It is given in the form of cash or building materials or both. The following shows the progress of the housing scheme since 1948-49 :

Year	No. of acquisition cases sanctioned	No. of houses constructed
1948-49	130	4,984
1949-50	184	4,981
1950-51	106	2,759*

The Saurashtra Government encourages Harijans to build houses with adequate space. The Government thus provided Rs. 1 lakh in loan in 1950-51 and Rs. 2 lakh in subsidy in 1951-52. A Housing Co-operative Association was formed recently with a capital of Rs. 6 lakh.

In the Punjab, about 700 sites have been selected for the development of model villages under the rural housing scheme. In these villages plots have been demarcated for allotment to displaced landless Harijans free of cost.

In 1950-51, the Bihar Government gave a sum of Rs. 3 lakh to construct houses for municipal sweepers. In Delhi, too, residential sites are given to Harijans free of

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\* Up to the end of December 1950.

cost. Housing schemes for Harijans are being implemented in other States also.

#### OTHER MEASURES

Vigorous attempts are being made to improve the sanitary conditions of the Harijan bastis in Uttar Pradesh. Masonry wells have been constructed and repaired in the Harijan colonies.

In Madras, Collectors have been empowered to sanction non-recurring expenditure up to Rs. 4,500 for the construction of wells, paths and latrines in a Harijan locality. The Director of Harijan Welfare can likewise sanction expenditure up to Rs. 7,500. In 1951, the Government constructed or repaired 8,978 wells at a cost of Rs. 4,337,369.

In Hyderabad State, the Civic Amenities Committee provides amenities in Harijan colonies in Hyderabad and Secunderabad. In Madhya Bharat, wells have been dug in such colonies. In Madhya Pradesh, a programme for the construction of 500 wells is being executed. Also, a tribunal was set up recently under the Industrial Disputes Act of 1947 to provide civic amenities and sanitary facilities for the sweepers.

By September 1950, the Mysore Government had provided 2,348 wells for the use of Harijans at a total outlay of Rs. 1,655,297.

#### *Legal Assistance*

The Harijans are generally too poor to defend themselves in law suits or institute law suits themselves. The Government of Madras has, therefore, decided that legal assistance should be given to deserving Harijans. Legal assistance is given to the Harijans in Bombay also.

#### *Harijan Day*

Besides legislative and administrative action, efforts are being made, through official and non-official channels, to mobilize public opinion against untouchability. In Madras, for instance, the thirtieth day of each month, except



U.P.—Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant inaugurating the U.P. Mehtar Mardoor Federation Convention at Lucknow

February, is observed as Harijan Day. Such an observance serves to make the Harijans conscious of their rights and others of their duty towards them.

A good deal has been achieved in recent years to remove disabilities which have kept the Harijans in bondage for centuries. Socially, they are now on the same footing as other sections of the community, and special efforts are being made to raise them educationally and economically. Today they have opportunities which were denied them before independence. The speed of their progress now depends on their own ability to take advantage of the opportunities which have been given them by the State. Meanwhile, efforts to improve the status of the Harijans continue.

#### *Expenditure on Harijan Welfare*

	1946-50	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52
	* Figures in thousands of rupees			
Bihar	237	400	315*	-
Bombay	3,160	3,820	4,410	4,570
Madras	5,900	7,600	10,000	10,400
Mysore	1,800	1,900	1,900	-

\* Up to October 1950.



## CHAPTER IV

### PUBLIC SERVICES

AN increasing number of Harijans is now being absorbed in public services. In fact, vacancies have been reserved for them both at the Centre and in the States. The Central Government has laid it down that  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of the vacancies, filled on an all India basis by competition through the UPSC or other bodies, should be reserved for Harijans. For all other posts, the reservation is even higher, that is,  $16\frac{2}{3}$  per cent.

Among the States, Punjab has reserved 15 per cent of the total vacancies, PEPSU 12.5, Ajmer and Bihar 12 and Madhya Bharat and Uttar Pradesh 10.

The maximum age limit prescribed for appointment to a service or a post in the Central Government has been raised by three years for Harijan candidates. They have to pay only a quarter of the fees prescribed for any examination or selection. Age and educational qualifications are relaxed in their favour in the States also.

As a result of these concessions, more and more Harijans are being employed in public services. In 1951, the total number of Harijans employed under the Ministry of Communications was 7,552, Finance 1,805, Food and Agriculture 918, Labour 647, Health 409, Defence 359, Commerce and Industry 291, Education 260, Works, Production and Supply 210, Information and Broadcasting 178, Natural Resources and Scientific Research 152, Transport 92, External Affairs 36 and Law 36. The UPSC employs 18 Harijans and the Supreme Court 10.

The representation of Harijans in the Central Services has grown substantially since August 1947, as is evident from the following :

Name of Organization		Proportion of Harijans in 1951 (Percentage)	Proportion of Harijans before independence (Percentage)
<i>Ministry of Commerce &amp; Industry</i>			
(i) Economic Adviser to the Government of India	Class II	10	9
	Class IV	12	6
(ii) Tea Controller for India	Class III	8	2
	Class IV	5	1
(iii) Indian Tariff Board, Bombay	Class IV	13.5	3.3
(iv) Deputy Chief Controller of I & E., Madras		9	4
(v) Patents Office, Calcutta	Class III	9.8	7.3
	Class IV	4	3
<i>Ministry of Communications</i>			
(i) Secretariat		11.5	9
(ii) Director General, Posts and Telegraphs		5.8	2.1
(iii) General Manager, Overseas Communications Service		18.5	13.9
<i>Ministry of Defence</i>			
Army Headquarters		5.3	Less than one
<i>Ministry of Education</i>			
(i) Director General of Archaeology		10.5	6.5
(ii) Department of Anthropology, Indian Museum, Calcutta		13.6	8.3
(iii) Delhi Polytechnic		27.1	8.8
<i>Ministry of Finance</i>			
(i) Controller of Insurance		8	5
(ii) India Govt. Mint, Bombay		9	5
(iii) India Govt. Mint, Calcutta		4.4	1.6
(iv) India Govt. Mint, Alipore		4	1.6
(v) India Security Printing Press, Nasik		31	28
<i>Ministry of Food &amp; Agriculture</i>			
(i) Indian Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore		12	10.5
(ii) Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar		9.6	5.3
(iii) Central Tractor Organization, New Delhi		97	85

Name of Organization		Proportion of Harijans in 1951 (Percentage)	Proportion of Harijans before independence (Percentage)
(iv) Central Marine Fisheries Research Station, Mandapam		12.8	—
(c) Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi	Class III	3.2	1.1
	Class IV	6.4	1.5
(vi) Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun	Class III	3.2	0.4
	Class IV	17.6	11.7
<i>Ministry of Information and Broadcasting</i>			
(i) Delhi Office	Class III	4.6	4
	Class IV	17.8	15.1
(ii) Simla Office	Class III	7.4	5.7
	Class IV	17.6	11.7
(iii) Research and Reference Division	Class II	20	—
<i>Ministry of Labour (Secretariat)</i>		11.3	9.9
<i>Ministry of Law</i>			
(i) Secretariat	Class II	5.5	—
	Class III	7.9	3
	Class IV	23.0	21.3
(ii) Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, Bombay	Class III	4.0	—
	Class IV	13.0	—
<i>Ministry of States (Secretariat)</i>		4	2.5
<i>Supreme Court of India</i>		9.3	4.2
<i>Ministry of Transport</i>			
(i) Secretariat		3.5	—
(ii) Roads Organization		8	7
(iii) A.O., Cochin Harbour		27	0.1
<i>Ministry of Works, Production and Supply</i>			
(i) Secretariat		8	4 (excluding Class IV employees)
(ii) Department of Explosives		8.5	3.8
(iii) Central Public Works Department (Central Office)		5.5	5.3
<i>Railway Audit Offices</i>			
(i) Railway Clearing Accounts		1.6	—
(ii) East Indian Railway		3.8	2.9
(iii) Great Indian Peninsular Railway		28	21
(iv) Southern Railway		10	—

Among the States, Uttar Pradesh employs 28,270 Harijans, Madras 8,750, Mysore 2,337, West Bengal 2,022, Delhi 2,018, Punjab 1,229, Orissa 760, Vindhya Pradesh 682, Assam 513, Bihar 491, PEPSU 491, Bhopal 388, Himachal Pradesh 384, Saurashtra 140, Ajmer 134, Tripura 95, Coorg 76, Bilaspur 26 and Kutch 22.

The number of Harijans who occupy well paid and responsible positions is increasing progressively as may be seen from the following :

CENTRE	Number of Harijans occupying responsible positions	Details
Ministry of External Affairs	3	All three in the Indian Foreign Service
Ministry of Works, Production and Supply	6	2 Executive Engineers, 3 Assistant Engineers and 1 Assistant Architect.
Ministry of Communications	2	1 Assistant Engineer, Posts and Telegraphs Department and 1 Meteorologist
Ministry of Labour	34	2 Deputy Secretaries, 1 Deputy Director, Resettlement and Employment, 2 Assistant Directors, Employment Exchanges, 5 Sub-Regional Employment Officers, 12 Assistant Employment Officers, 2 Assistant Public Relations Officers, 1 Assistant Director of Training, 1 Principal, Industries Training Institute, 1 Assistant Inspector of Training, 5 Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Labour Welfare, etc.
Ministry of Commerce and Industry	3	1 Under Secretary, 1 Examiner of Trade Marks and 1 Deputy Director, Enforcement.
Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research	7	2 Assistant Geologists, 3 Assistant Executive Engineers, 1 Assistant Research Officer and 1 Project Officer.
Office of the Chief Labour Commissioner	14	3 Regional Labour Commissioners, 3 Conciliation Officers and 8 Labour Inspectors.
Director, Labour Bureau, Simla	1	1 Research Officer.

STATES		Number of Harijans occupying responsible positions	Details
Assam	..	17	1 of the rank of Dy. Commissioner, 1 ACS (Class I) and 15 ACS (Class II).
Delhi	..	2	2 Magistrates.
Himachal Pradesh	..	2	1 PFS and 1 Sub-Divisional Officer.
Madhya Pradesh	..	8	3 Extra Assistant Commissioners, 1 SDO, Police, 1 ASP and 1 in Education Service.
Madras	..	67	5 IAS, 1 Deputy Commissioner, Civil Supplies, 1 Collector, 1 Superintending Engineer, 3 Regional Transport Officers, 7 Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents of Police, 8 Deputy Collectors (under training), 7 Civil and Assistant Civil Surgeons, 2 Revenue Divisional Officers, 1 Deputy Director, Harijan Welfare, 3 Commercial Tax Officers, 1 Treasury Deputy Collector, 2 Probationary Assistant Conservator of Forests, 1 Health Officer, 1 Superintendent, Borstal School, 1 Sub-Judge, 4 Munsifs, 2 Agricultural Officers, 1 Deputy Commissioner, Prohibition and 2 District Registrars, etc.
Orissa	..	12	1 IAS, 7 OAS, 3 OSAS and 1 in Education Service.
PEPSU	..	5	1 PUAS, 1 Lexicographer and 3 Assistant Welfare Officers.
Punjab	..	17	1 Treasury Officer, 3 Sub-Judges, 1 House Surgeon, 1 Food Inspector, 3 Labour Inspectors, 5 District and Assistant Inspectors of School, 1 Public Prosecutor and 2 Head Masters, Government Industrial School.
Mysore	..	16	9 Assistant Commissioners, 1 Assistant Superintendent of Police and 4 Amildars, etc.
Uttar Pradesh	..	9	6 Deputy Superintendents of Police, 1 Assistant Superintendent of Police, 1 Prohibition and Special Uplift Officer and 1 Head Laboratory Assistant, Chemical Examiner.



STATES	Number of Harijans occupying responsible positions	Details
West Bengal .. ..	58	1 ICS, 1 IAS, 2 IP, 7 Deputy Collectors, 9 Sub-Deputy Magistrates, 1 Judge, SCC, 5 Munsifs, 1 Deputy Secretary, Labour Department, 4 Revisers, Government Printing Department, 1 Deputy Administrator General and Official Trustee, 2 Labour Commissioners, 1 Assistant Surgeon, 1 Deputy Chief Inspector (Education), 1 District Social Education Officer, 1 Inspector of Police, 3 Excise Officers and 6 CTO, etc.

The above facts have been taken at random, but they show clearly that in the services the position of the Harijans has steadily improved.

Harijans are well represented in the political life of the country also. Like other adult citizens of the Republic, they have the right of vote. Further, they have their representatives in the Central and State legislatures and Ministries. Until recently, there were two Harijan Ministers in the Central Cabinet. Assam, Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Mysore, Madras and Uttar Pradesh had one Harijan Minister each. Rajasthan and Madhya Bharat had a Deputy Minister each while there were two Harijan Parliamentary Secretaries in Madhya Pradesh, in addition to a Harijan Minister. Harijans were also represented in the Chief Commissioner's Advisory Councils for Delhi and Ajmer.

## CHAPTER V

### FUTURE SECURED

It is a well known fact that the rules of civic conduct observed by a community and the ideas which move and inspire it are reflected in its laws. The Constitution of independent India is no exception to this rule. It puts the stamp of legality on the progress already made in Harijan welfare and gives expression to the people's determination to eradicate an age-old evil from the national life of the country. To quote the historic words of clause 17 of the Constitution by which untouchability has been brought to an end:

"Untouchability is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden. The enforcement of any disability arising out of untouchability shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law."

Not content with a general declaration, the framers of the Constitution saw to it that untouchability did not exist in India in any shape or form and that all citizens were equal in the eyes of the State. For instance, article 15 of the Constitution provides that "No citizen shall on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them be subject to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to :

- (a) access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment; or
- (b) use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of State funds or dedicated to the use of the general public."

This provision is supplemented by another which ensures that "No citizen shall be denied admission to any educational institution maintained by the State or receiving aid out of State funds on grounds of religion, race or any one of them."

It was, however, not enough to remove the disabilities of Harijans. Practical men that they were, the leaders of India realized that for at least some years to come Harijans and other backward classes would need positive assistance from the State before they were in a position to compete with others on level terms. This is envisaged in clause 46 which states that "The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation."

The Constitution has secured the economic and political interests of Harijans. For instance, articles 330 (I) and 332 (I) provide that seats should be reserved for them in the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of the States. Further, they are to receive their proper share in the public services of the Union and the States.

The Constitution makes it incumbent on the President of the Republic to appoint a Special Officer for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In pursuance of this provision a Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been appointed at the Centre. He co-ordinates the welfare activities of the States and the Centre and generally looks after the interests of Harijans.

Finally, the President is authorized "to appoint a Commission . . . to investigate the condition of socially and educationally backward classes . . . to make recommendations for the steps that should be taken by the Union or any State" to remove their difficulties and to improve their position.

It will thus be seen that the Constitution amply safeguards the future of the Harijans. Its provisions, as the foregoing chapters show, are being honoured in letter and